

The Constitution—Balancing Competing Interests

Part A.

Americans' experience with British rule and the Articles of Confederation gave rise to considerable apprehension about the placement of power in a new government. The Founding Fathers attempted to allay those fears through compromises that safeguarded the interests of competing groups. The following chart lists some of those fears. Research the Constitution and related sources to identify the cause of each fear and how one or more provisions of the Constitution calmed that fear. Your completed chart should enable you to understand part B on the conflicting view of later historians about the motives of the Founding Fathers.

Fear	Source of fear	Provision to calm the fear
Fear of large states		
Fear of the people		
Fear of weak central government		
Fear of central government		
Fear of unwritten word		
Fear of other states		
Fear of foreign powers		
Fear of strong executive		
Fear of losing individual rights		

